

THE DAILY JESUS NEWS

An ATJ Ministries Publication by John Wright

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #347

The Eternal Ministry of Jesus in Heaven

The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus in the Early Church

Jesus Continues His Ministry in Heaven by Pouring Out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Acts 1.1-2; 2.1-5, 16-21, 33, 36

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1.1 In my first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus started to constantly do and keep on teaching 2 until the day he was taken up into heaven, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had personally selected.

2.1 When the day of Pentecost had fully arrived, the disciples were all spending time together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the bellowing of a mighty, roaring wind came out of heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 They were enabled to see what seemed to be tongues of fire, that divided up and settled down on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and started speaking in other languages as the Spirit gave them the words.

16 Peter stood and said: "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 'IN THE LAST DAYS, GOD IS SAYING,
I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE.
YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY,
YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS,
YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM VARIOUS DREAMS.
18 YES... UPON MY MALE SERVANTS AND FEMALE SERVANTS
I WILL POUR FORTH MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS,
AND THEY WILL PREACH MY WORD.
19 I WILL GIVE WONDERS IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW--
BLOOD AND FIRE AND MIGHTY BILLOWS OF SMOKE.
20 THE SUN WILL BE TURNED TO DARKNESS
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD
BEFORE THE GREAT AND NOTEWORTHY DAY OF THE LORD COMES.
21 AND WHOEVER CHOOSES TO CALL
ON THE NAME OF THE LORD IN PRAYER WILL BE SAVED.'" (Joel 2.28-32)

33 "Since he has been exalted to the right hand of God, and because he has received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, HE (Jesus) has poured out what you are now now seeing and hearing. 36 Therefore, I command that all Israel be absolutely certain about this: God has made this very Jesus, whom you crucified, both LORD God, and Messiah."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Jesus in Heaven, The Upper Room in Jerusalem on Earth
Timeline	Mid-May (Month 40)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	Jesus' Eternal Ministry in Heaven
	The Words and Works of Jesus in the Early Church
Title:	Jesus Pours Out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Ten days had passed since Jesus' ascension. It was the Day of Pentecost--the 50th day since Passover. On the Festival of Pentecost the High Priest would make two leavened loaves of wheat, and present them before the Lord in the Inner Courts of the Temple. This Old Testament feast commemorated the day that YHWH gave his people the Torah, or Law, including the 10 Commandments through Moses.

On this particular day of Pentecost, YHWH--the Trinity--gave the Holy Spirit as the indwelling presence of God to every New Covenant believer. As the author of the Letter to the Hebrews wrote, quoting the prophet Jeremiah: (Jer. 31.33-34)

10 *This is the new covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
 after that time, declares the Lord.
 I will put my laws in their minds
 and write them on their hearts.
 I will be their God,
 and they will be my people.*
 11 *No longer will they teach their neighbor,
 or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'
 because they will all know me,
 from the least of them to the greatest.*
 12 *For I will forgive their wickedness
 and will remember their sins no more."*

13 *By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.* (NIV) Heb. 8.10-13

Jeremiah, Joel (whom Peter quoted in his explanation of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost), Isaiah and a host of other Old Testament prophets had announced the coming age in which every believer would be indwelt and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. John, the Immerser in water had prophesied that Jesus would immerse all of his disciples in the Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised the eternal indwelling presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit to his disciples (JN 14.16-24; Acts 1.5-8).

At Pentecost then, Jesus simultaneously sent the promised Holy Spirit to all of his disciples. As Peter testified:

“HE (Jesus) has poured out what you are now seeing and hearing.” Acts 2.33

Every new believer in Jesus since Pentecost has received the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit the moment we believe in him as our Lord and God. This is the permanent legacy of the work of the resurrected Jesus which began at Pentecost.

When Jesus ascended back into heaven he took all of us with him as our Representative. We rose and ascended with him, because he shares all of the benefits and privileges of his exalted position in heaven with us. Then, when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us as his own indwelling Representative on earth, he connected each of us eternally with his Risen presence. He is now in us by His Spirit, and we are alive in him in his position in heaven. Time and space barriers between us have been abolished in our union with Him in the Spirit.

The life of Jesus in the flesh on earth was glorious to be sure, but it would have been limited only to history, and to those who actually knew him in the flesh if his life had ended in the grave. Because Jesus rose, ascended, and send his Spirit to us we can NEVER be separated from his love and presence forever, any more than the Father, Son and Spirit are sure to never be separated from each other forever.

The gift of the Holy Spirit that comes from the Father through Son--like every other expression of the grace of the Trinity--was the first, and in some ways the most important work that Jesus continues to perform in his eternal heavenly ministry. This culminated his ministry as Savior and Lord, by bringing every believer into an eternal union with him that is modeled upon the union between Father, Son and Spirit in the very Being of the Triune God.

Pentecost then, made Jesus alive again on earth in an invisible, yet much more powerful form than the days of his flesh and blood body. This is why study of the life of Jesus must include his life and work after returning to heaven and sending the Spirit in order to be complete. Pentecost connects the Risen Jesus directly with all believers of all time.

Pentecost is supreme proof that Jesus is indeed the God-man. Only God can impart the presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is that God. This is why Peter declared:

33 *“Since he has been exalted to the right hand of God, and because he has received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, HE (Jesus) has poured out what you are now now seeing and hearing. 36 Therefore, I command that all Israel be absolutely certain about this: God has made this very Jesus, whom you crucified, both LORD God, and Messiah.”*

50 days after we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter, our annual remembrance of the day of Pentecost commemorates the eternal ministry of Jesus in heaven that made Pentecost possible.

APPLICATION:

Old Covenant Pentecost celebrated the giving of the Torah--the Law. New Covenant Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit who writes God's Word directly into our hearts and minds through his indwelling power--not on tablets of stone.

The “law of the Spirit” is his power to produce the fruit of the life and character of Jesus in us when we rely upon him to do it. The Holy Spirit is God. He will never fail or forsake us in enabling us to love and follow Jesus. His power is more reliable than any “law” of nature.

How is the Holy Spirit seeking to empower and fill you today in service to Jesus?

How do you need to rely upon the power of the Spirit today?